

CLAIMS

1. A dressing for a four legged animal comprising:

a sheet member containing at least two apertures each adapted to receive a leg and thereby establish an axis of alignment for the dressing relative to a longitudinal axis of an animal to which the dressing is applied; characterised in that the sheet member is bounded by:

a first transverse (front) side from which the two apertures are spaced by an amount considerably less than the overall length of the sheet member;

a second transverse (rear) side spaced on the axis of alignment and remote from the first transverse side;

first and second lateral sides extending from the first transverse side along on either side of the axis of alignment, each lateral boundary of the pair extending from the first transverse side to the second transverse side; the first lateral side of the pair being disposed on one side of the axis of alignment and the second lateral side being disposed on the other side of the axis of alignment to first side ; and

a locating means defined by, or by way of, the sheet member to provide for location of the sheet member in the vicinity of the second transverse side on a body of an animal to which the dressing is attached to limit movement of the dressing in a direction coaxial with or parallel to the axis of alignment;

the dressing being adapted for being retained in a working configuration around the body of an animal with a leg of the animal extending through each of the apertures and a standby configuration where the dressing is available for use prior to wrapping around an animal.

2. A dressing as claimed in Claim 1 characterised by a complementary linkage means provided on the lateral sides to enable the first lateral side to be demountably coupled to the second lateral side in the working configuration of the dressing and the first lateral side to be freed from coupling with the second lateral side in the standby configuration of the dressing.

3. A dressing as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the second lateral side is shaped so that with the dressing in its working configuration the second lateral side serves to avoid covering a predetermined region of a body of an animal on which the dressing is established in a working configuration.
4. A dressing as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 characterised in that the sheet in the region of the second lateral side defines a number of possible paths, such as by marks or lines or perforations in the sheet, the paths providing for the sheet to be cut to establish one of these paths to define a fresh second lateral side for the dressing.
5. A dressing as claimed in any preceding claim characterised by a locating means comprising or including a cup or recess defined by, or attached to, the sheet and adapted to receive a body region of an animal on which the dressing is being, or is to be, used in its working configuration.
6. A dressing as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the location means comprises a tie or loop for attaching to a part of a body of an animal to which the dressing is applied such as a tail.
7. A dressing as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that at least one of the apertures includes a sleeve extending from the aperture so that in the working configuration of the dressing a leg of an animal extending through the aperture is surrounded, and is resiliently held by, the sleeve.
8. A dressing as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the sheet in addition to the two apertures for first two legs of a four legged animal provided towards the first transverse side of the sheet there are additionally provided a second pair of apertures for the other two legs of the animal to the first two so that, the dressing is located by the four apertures on the four legs on a subject animal on which the dressing is being, or is to be, used in its working configuration.

9. A dressing as claimed in Claim 8 characterised in that at least one second aperture of the second pair of apertures includes a sleeve extending from the second aperture so that in the working configuration of the dressing a leg of an animal extending through the second aperture is surrounded over at least a short length by the sleeve.

10. A dressing as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the complementary linkage means is chosen from a group comprising: at least one pair of tapes or strings which can be knotted together, a contact material such as VELCRO (RTM), an adhesive or plaster.

11. A dressing as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the dressing includes means for locating or retaining a local dressing, or means for retaining medication, at a predetermined location in a working configuration of the dressing.

12. A dressing as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the dressing is of a material or materials of a type able to withstand at least one autoclaving or other sterilisation process to enable the dressing to be re-used.

13. A dressing as claimed in any of preceding claims 1 to 11 characterised in that the sheet material is of a type intended for one off disposable usage.